

Create a Module from *.bas or *.txt VBA Code in ArcGIS

These instructions describe how to utilize VBA code in ArcGIS software to create modules and access them as a button in the application's GUI. VBA code (or script) can be downloaded as *.bas or *.txt files. Also, users can copy/paste code directly from another source.

Sources of VBA code:

Download ESRI samples: <http://arcgisdeveloperonline.esri.com/ArcGISDeveloper/default.asp>

Download ESRI ArcScripts: <http://arcscrips.esri.com/>

Creating a New Module:

1. Open up ArcCatalog or ArcMap. This will depend upon what component the script was written for.
2. Open the VBA Editor: Tools → Macros → Visual Basic Editor
3. Select either the Normal (Normal.mxt) or Project folder in the Project Management Window (see green area on figure below). If you are in ArcCatalog, you will only have the Normal (Normal.gxt) choice.

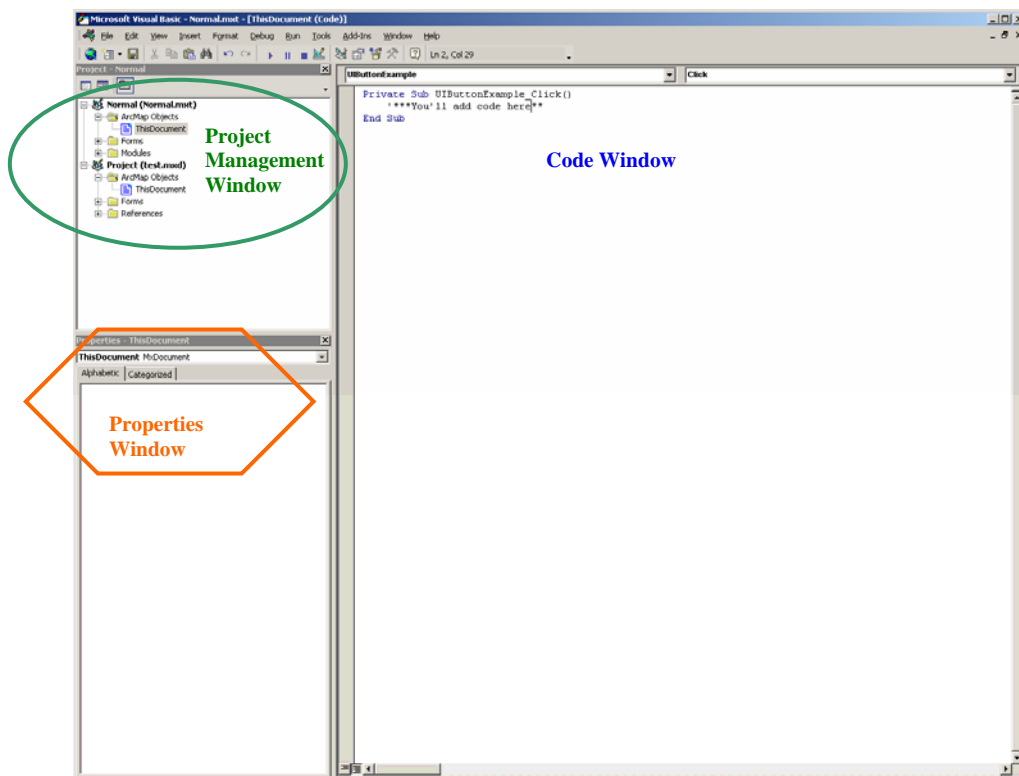
**** Please Note:** For ArcMap, you can add the module to the Normal project [normal.mxt] or your current working project. Modifying the normal.mxt will give you access to the code on every instance of ArcMap in your login. Modifying the current working project will only allow you to access the code while in that project.

4. Right click the intended folder (see Step 3) and choose "Import File". Browse to and select the *.bas or *.txt file.

4alt. If you are copying/pasting code in, then you can create a new module: Right click → Insert → Module. Copy/paste the code into the new module window.

5. Whether you used 4 or 4alt, you may need to name the new Module. In the Project Management Window, go to the Normal or Project folder, Module subfolder, and click on the new module file. You will now be able to add or modify the (Name) property in the Properties Window (see the orange hexagon on the figure below).

6. Save and then close the VBA Editor.



Add a Button:

1. ArcCatalog/ArcMap -> Tools dropdown menu -> Customize
2. Go to the "Commands" tab and select the "Macros" category.
3. Drag the new command onto an ArcCatalog/ArcMap Toolbar. It should be listed by a compound name similar to this example:
 Project.ModuleName.ProcedureName
4. Change the button's appearance if you want. Right click on the button and choose a different icon.
5. Close the Customize Window.
6. Run the new script!!
 - a. Select the object needed for the script (ie. a dataset or maybe an ArcMap layer...I don't know 'cause it is script dependant)
 - b. Click on the new icon.